

Haggerty Notes 'Pre- **Judge Defends**

Nuptial' Tradition

Stag Party

Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. today proclaimed himself innocent of four charges lodged against him by police after he was caught in a "stag show" vice raid last night.

Judge Haggerty, who gained national prominence presiding at the conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw earlier this year, is booked with conspiring to commit obscenity, soliciting for prostitution, simple battery on police and resisting arrest.

Through a spokesman, the judge termed the gathering at the DeVille Motel where he was arrested a "before-the-wedding-bachelor party."

ACTING AS spokesman for Judge Haggerty was attorney Robert Zibilich. He said:

"I have been authorized by Judge Haggerty to state unequivocally that he is not guilty of any of the charges lodged against him by police and that he will be completely vindicated of these charges.

"The canons of judicial ethics prohibit any further comment or discussion on this matter.

"However, I can add that

a 'before-the-wedding-bachelor party, has long been a New Orleans tradition.

"IF ALL MEN, no matter what their background or professional status, who ever attended such a farewell to the bachelorhood party were put in jail, the police blotter would read like a telephone directory.

"The judge certainly regrets that this police action might have brought embarrassment to the bench and his family."

Police refused to say why the judge was charged with soliciting for prostitution. Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso's release on the incident gave no explanation and spokesmen refused to discuss it. However, Central Lockup records confirmed that the judge was booked on such a charge.

JUDGE HAGGERTY and 13 other persons were arrested by vice squad police in a raid at the DeVille Motel, 3800 Tulane Ave., about 9 p. m. Police said he battled with them and had to be overpowered before being taken into custody.

Police said they had received information that the motel room was rented for



JUDGE EDWARD A. HAGGERTY JR. wears pained expression as he arrives at Criminal District Court today after being arrested in a vice raid last night. —States-Item photo.



JUDGE COVERS FACE DURING A VICE RAID AT MOTEL LAST NIGHT
Edward A. Haggerty Jr. faces series of charges

—States-Item photo.

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putting on an obscene show. They said persons entering the room were charged \$5 each to watch "stag films" and, later, "live entertainment."

A young attorney who asked to remain anonymous told the States-Item he had been at the party about 7 p.m. and that he understood it to be a bachelor party for one of the arrested men, who will be married in about a month.

The \$5 "admission charge," according to the attorney, was paid by the party-goers "to defray the cost of the booze and the room."

JUDGE HAGGERTY arrived at his courtroom in the Criminal Court Building at Tulane and S. Broad this morning just before 10 o'clock and opened his section of the court at the regular 10 a.m. hour.

The judge parked his vehi-

cle in the building basement and was confronted by a States-Item photographer.

The judge smiled, and hesitated until the picture could be taken.

"Oh, well," he said, "the world's not coming to an end."

SEVERAL ATTORNEYS entered the courtroom and asked permission to approach the judge's bench.

One of them, G. Wray Gill, said he told the judge that he was in sympathy with him and offered his services as an attorney.

Gill said the judge thanked him.

Minutes before the judge opened his court, two vice squadmen who participated in last night's motel raid walked into the courtroom to confer with an assistant district attorney.

They were Patrolman Richard Siegel and Detective Frank Buras.

The officers refused to comment on last night's raid and arrests.

Bernard J. Bagert, senior judge of the Criminal District Court, said the final authority on any disciplinary action against Judge Haggerty will be the Louisiana Supreme Court. It was Bagert who ordered Judge Haggerty paroled after the arrest last night. Judge Haggerty is second in seniority on the court.

The first step in any move to remove or otherwise discipline Judge Haggerty would have to be taken by a new body recently set up under an amendment to the state constitution, the Judicial Administration Commission.

THIS GROUP panel has the
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authority to instigate an investigation and report its findings to the supreme court for action.

The criminal charges against Judge Haggerty will be referred to the office of District Attorney Jim Garrison for action. The DA's office can charge him directly or submit the matter to the grand jury. Sources indicated today the latter course will be followed.

Arrested with Haggerty in the raid was Victor M. Soto Jr., 926 E. William David Parkway, booked with four counts of gambling, assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest, and a number of persons, including three women, who were in the room when the raid took place.

ONE OF THE other persons was identified as Malcolm Mundy Jr., 37, of 6344 Dorothea, an attorney.

A Malcolm Mundy Jr. was an assistant district attorney

under Richard Dowling and served in the court of Judge Haggerty.

Mundy was booked with conspiracy to commit obscenity.

Others booked on the same count were:

Albert Miller, 27, 7915 Cohn; Alceste Ory, 30, 1125 Phosphor, Metairie; Michael Carso, 50, 4422 Senator Toby, Jefferson Parish; Michael Stuebben, 27, 202 S. Hennessey, who is Judge Haggerty's minute clerk; Max Williams, 36, 1931 Carmington Place; Samuel Blanchard, 39, 519 Beach Blvd., Waveland, Miss.; Kenneth Reeves, 29, 3009 20th St., Apt. B; George Costello, 39, 2916 Haring Road; Janelle Vincent, 21; Wanda Norman, 39, and Jean Clemens Shipp, 32, all of 8110 Breakwater Drive.

Arresting police said Judge Haggerty tried to flee the room when vice squad officers walked in but was stopped as he ran through the door.

THE JUDGE reportedly became violent when the officers tried to make him return to the room.

In the struggle with the officers, police said, Judge Haggerty received a slight cut on the forehead.

Officers involved in the struggle with the judge were identified as Patrolmen Richard Siegel and Robert Pence and Detective Frank Buras.

Sgt. Robert Frey, vice squad commander, said he kept the motel room under surveillance for several hours before launching the raid.

Newsman had been tipped about the coming raid.